

## **“Are You a Christian Hybrid?” Part 2 - 1 Corinthians 10:15-22 – September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

- Today's teaching will be part two of a series I've titled in the form of a question, "Are you a Christian Hybrid?"
- I'm using the metaphor of a hybrid because it provides us with an apt description of blending worldly carnality with Christianity.
- What the Apostle Paul is addressing here in our text is the Corinthian Christians crossbreeding with the idolatry of the pagans.
- It seems the Corinthian's who may have rightly had the liberty to eat meat offered to idols were doing so in the pagan temples.
- The question becomes, why would this rise to the level of such bluntness from Paul? To answer this, we must know the culture.
- Back then, and even today in the Middle East, eating with someone is seen as bonding with someone, for the rest of your life.
- It's for this reason the Jews would refuse to eat with a Gentile, as it would be seen as a lifelong bond becoming one with them.
- The thought is that when you break bread or drink from the cup with someone, the same bread and wine is in the both of you.
- This is why we call it the communion table, such that, by partaking together at the same table, we are forming a common union.
- Enter our text in verses 15-22, where the Apostle Paul by the Spirit of God speaks to them as sensible and reasonable people.
- I suppose in a way Paul is trying to talk some sense into them, as we would say in our day, concerning partaking at the table.
- This is where the metaphor of a Christian hybrid comes in. They were combining the Lord's Table with the table of demons.
- 1. Are you prioritizing anything or anyone else as being more important than Jesus Christ? (Verse 14)**
- I mentioned last week that I was going to approach the teaching of the rest of this chapter by asking some specific questions.
- The first question in verse 14 was this: Are you prioritizing anything or anyone else as being more important than Jesus Christ?
- This because, any hobby, any sport, any activity, anything or anyone that is more important to me than Jesus Christ is idolatry.
- 2. Are you trying to combine partaking together of the world's table with partaking of the Lord's Table? (Verses 15-22)**
- The second question is are you trying to combine partaking together of the world's table with the partaking of the Lord's Table?
- What Paul is saying here is that we cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too, it just doesn't work that way.
- I think of the words of the Savior in His sermon on the mount in the context of the idolatry of money. You cannot serve both.
- Matthew 6:24 (NIV) — 24 "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.
- I find it interesting that Paul once again in verse eighteen uses the Israelites as an example in order to drive home his point.
- More specifically, he asks them to consider the people of Israel; "Do not those who eat the sacrifices participate in the altar?"
- Paul is referring to when the Israelites would participate in eating from the offerings to the Lord in the Tabernacle and Temple.
- Of this one commentator wrote, "Israel understood the koinonia of Communion, for when the Jews offered their peace offerings to the Lord in the tabernacle, and later in the temple, part of the meat sacrificed would rise to the Lord in smoke. They were able to eat of the remainder. Thus, through the peace offering, they were able to commune with God as they shared meat together."
- In the book of Exodus, Moses is given specific instructions about the building of the table of showbread for the Tabernacle.
- Exodus 25:23-30 - 23 "You shall also make a table of acacia wood; two cubits shall be its length, a cubit its width, and a cubit and a half its height. 24 And you shall overlay it with pure gold, and make a molding of gold all around. 25 You shall make for it a frame of a handbreadth all around, and you shall make a gold molding for the frame all around. 26 And you shall make for it four rings of gold, and put the rings on the four corners that are at its four legs. 27 The rings shall be close to the frame, as holders for the poles to bear the table. 28 And you shall make the poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold, that the table may be carried with them. 29 You shall make its dishes, its pans, its pitchers, and its bowls for pouring. You shall make them of pure gold. 30 And you shall set the showbread on the table before Me always.
- The eating from the table of showbread speaks of and points to the communion table, which was eaten before the face of God.
- In other words, it was eaten in the presence of God. The point being is God wanted the intimacy with His people at His table.
- This is why we cannot have the intimacy at the table of demons, while at the same time having intimacy at the table of the Lord.
- James 4:4-5 (NIV) — 4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. 5 Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us?
- Notice that James is echoing what Paul says concerning the Lord jealously longing for the spirit He has caused to dwell in us.
- The reason I point this out is because we are prone to misunderstand what the Lord's jealousy really is. He's not jealous of us.
- Rather, He is jealous for us. Let me explain, the Lord is not jealous of other gods, He is jealous for us to bring us back to Him.
- By way of an illustration, let's say that someone who was a dangerous threat to my daughter had also befriended my daughter.
- Because of this, I warn my daughter to stay away from him and have nothing to do with him. Why? I'm her father, that's why!
- I don't want her injured or harmed in anyway because I'm jealous for her. How much more is this true for our heavenly Father?
- The fact of the matter, in conclusion, is we can unwittingly fall prey to our adversary, the devil, by being intimate with the world.
- Sadly, many a Christian, under the banner of being ignorant of the devil's devices, has become a lukewarm/hybrid Christian.
- Would to God that we would be numbered amongst those of whom it can be said, they partake only of the table of the Lord.